

## Message Text

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14

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00

SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 IO-10 OMB-01 SCCT-01 /063 W

----- 118415

O 130755Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2215

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMCONSUL BOMBAY IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL MADRAS IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 15094

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINT, IN

SUBJ: J.P. NARAYAN RELEASED

SUMMARY: THE GOI RELEASED 73-YEAR OLD OPPOSITION LEADER J.P. NARAYAN ON PAROLE. IT APPEARS THAT NARAYAN'S DETERIORATING HEALTH AND THE POSSIBILITY THAT HIS DEATH WHILE UNDER DETENTION COULD EMBARRASS THE GOI MAY HAVE BEEN BEHIND THE GOI DECISION. END SUMMARY.

1. DURING THE EARLY EVENING OF NOVEMBER 12, GOI CENSORS PHONED FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS TO INFORM THAT AN OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT PERTAINING TO J.P. NARAYAN WOULD BE ISSUED SOON. THE CENSORS INSTRUCTED THE CORRESPONDENTS TO USE ONLY THE OFFICIAL VERSION IN THEIR STORIES. AROUND 2300 HRS THE TWO INDIAN WIRE SERVICES RAN A ONE SENTENCE GOI ANNOUNCEMENT STATING "MR. JAYAPRAKASH NARAYAN HAS BEEN RELEASED ON PAROLE IT IS LEARNED." THERE HAVE BEEN NO SUBSEQUENT RELEASES ON NARAYAN'S RELEASE, AND GOI SPOKESMEN ARE DECLINING TO ANSWER QUESTIONS ABOUT HIS SITUATION.

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2. J.P. NARAYAN'S VARIED HEALTH PROBLEMS APPEAR

TO BE BEHIND THE GOI'S DECISION TO RELEASE HIM. AS WE HAVE REPORTED EARLIER, NARAYAN HAS A HISTORY OF HEART DISEASE GROWING OUT OF A MYOCARDIAL INFARCTION SUFFERED SOME YEARS AGO. IN 1973, HIS PROSTATE GLAND WAS REMOVED. HE IS ALSO KNOWN TO SUFFER FROM INTENSTINAL COMPLICATIONS, INCLUDING POSSIBLY A MALIGNANCY. NARAYAN'S BROTHER RECENTLY WROTE TO THE PRIME MINISTER TO REQUEST THE GOI TO RELEASE THE 73-YEAR-OLD OPPOSITION LEADER. THE LETTER (NOT RELEASED BY THE GOI) NOTED THAT NARAYAN'S HEALTH HAD BEEN SLIPPING FOR THE PASTTWO MONTHS AND STATED THAT HIS CONTINUED DETENTION ENDANGERED HIS LIFE. ACCORDING TO ONE SOURCE, THE GOI DISPATCHED A TEAM OF DOCTORS TO CHANDIGARH HOSPITAL TO EXAMINE NARAYAN FOLLOWING MRS. GANDHI'S RECIPT OF THE LETTER.

3. OUR GUESS IS THAT THE DOCTORS' REPORT ON NARAYAN'S HEALTH WAS PESSIMISTIC AND MRS. GANDHI DECIDED TO PAROLE NARAYAN RATHER THAN RISK HAVING HIM DIE WHILE IN DETENTION. IN PAROLING NARAYAN, THE GOI CVAN OFFICIALLY KEEP HIM UNDER SURVEILLANCE AND AT THE SAME TIME COUNTER CHARGES THAT NARAYAN HAS WON AN "UNCONDITIONAL" RELEASE. ACCORDING TO OUR LATEST INFORMATION, NARAYAN HIMSELF IS STILL NOT WILLING TO BUDGE FROM THIS POSITION SINCE TO DO SO WOULD AMOUNT TO A TACIT ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF THE PRIME INISTER'S RATIONALE FOR THE EMERGENCY.

4. A SOURCE IN CHANDIGARH TOLD US EARY NOVEMBER 13 THAT NARAYAN IS STILL IN CHANDIGARH HOSPITAL. A SECOND SOURCE WHO IS CLOSE TO NARAYAN STATES THAT HE MAY HAVE BEEN MOVED FROM CHANDIGARH TO BETTER HEALTH FACILITIES, POSSIBLY IN BOMBAY.

5. COMMENT: BY PAROLING NARAYAN, THE GOI MAY BE ABLE TO DEFLECTMUCH OF THE CRITICISM IT WOULD RECEIVE AT HOME AND ABROAD IF HE WERE TO DIE IN DETENTION. IF NARAYAN WERE TO DIE, VIOLENCE COULD ERUPT IN SOME AREAS OF INDIA, PARTICULARLY IN BIHAR AND GUJARAT. WHILE SUCH VIOLENCE WOULD BE EASILY SUPPRESSED BY GOI SECURITY FORCES, NARAYAN'S DEATH WOULD SERVE TO POISON FURTHER THE POLITICAL ATMOSPHERE IN INDIA, HARDEN DIVISIONS BETWEEN MRS. GANDHI AND THE OPPOSITION AND CONSTITUTE ONE CONFIDENTIAL

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MORE PRESSURE ON THE PRIME MINISTER TO AVOID AN EARLY RELAXATION OF POLITICAL AND PRESS RESTRICTIONS.  
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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRISONERS RELEASE, POLITICAL PRISONERS  
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**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** KelleyW0  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
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**TAGS:** PINS, PINT, IN, (NARAYAN, J P)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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